

# What arts organisations are doing to help the environment

Our report for 2023 to 2024



Easy read booklet

# Who we are and what we do



We are **Arts Council England**. We help artists and arts organisations be creative and make art and culture.



One way we help is by giving people and organisations money. This is called **funding**.

LET'S  
CREATE

We give funding to a group of organisations who want to help with our **Outcomes**. You can read about our **Outcomes** in our plan called [Let's Create](#).



We call these organisations our **National Portfolio Organisations**, or **NPOs** for short.

# What this booklet is about



We want arts organisations to help stop **climate change** and look after the **environment**.



**Climate change** means changes that are happening to the world because we use too many fuels like oil and gas.



The **environment** is everything around us including air, water, plants and animals.



This booklet tells you what our NPOs did from April 2023 to March 2024 to help look after the environment.

# About Julie's Bicycle

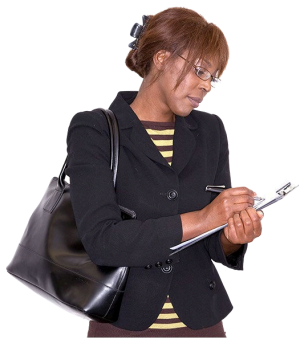
Julie's Bicycle

CREATIVE • CLIMATE • ACTION

We work with an organisation called **Julie's Bicycle**.



They teach our NPOs how to look after the environment.



They also help them collect information about the ways their work impacts the environment.



For example, how much **energy** they use. **Energy** is what makes machines and appliances work. Electricity and gas are types of energy.

# About the information collected from our NPOs



We have information from 591 NPOs. That is more than half our National Portfolio.

This information is about 4 ways their work impacts the environment



- 1 How much energy they use
- 2 How much **waste** they make and how they get rid of it
- 3 How they travel
- 4 How much water they use.



**Waste** means materials that have been used but are no longer needed.

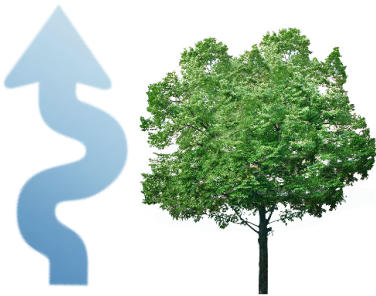


In the rest of this booklet, we tell you about this information and the work arts organisations are doing.

# Energy



512 of the 591 NPOs gave us information about how much energy they used.



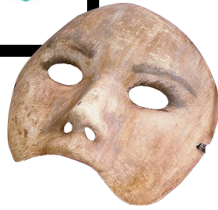
Out of the 4 ways their work impacted the environment, energy had the biggest impact.



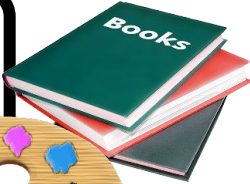
This is because energy creates a lot of **carbon emissions**.



**Carbon emissions** are gases that get put into the air when we do things like use energy or travel. They make the earth a lot warmer than it should be.



Arts organisations that work in theatres or museums, or work with lots of different types of art used the largest amount of energy.



Arts organisations that work in art galleries or with books used the smallest amount of energy.



A small amount of energy used by arts organisations was **renewable energy**.



**Renewable energy** is energy you can use again and again because there will always be more of it. For example, from the wind or sun.



In total, arts organisations used enough energy from 2023 to 2024 to power just over 13,000 homes.



# Waste



377 of the 591 NPOs gave us information about their waste.



This included how much waste they made and how they got rid of it.



Out of the 4 ways their work impacted the environment, waste had the second biggest impact.



Waste creates a lot of carbon emissions when it is burned or left in the ground to breakdown.



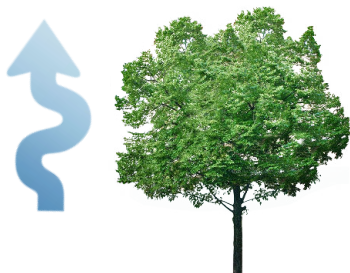
# Travel



250 of the 591 NPOs gave us information about how their **audiences** travelled.



**Audiences** are the people who go to shows and events.



Out of the 4 ways their work impacted the environment, travel had the third biggest impact.



Audiences created more carbon emissions by travelling than arts organisations did.



Arts organisations only created more carbon emissions than audiences when they were travelling to lots of different places to show their art.



We asked people to tell us how they travelled to shows and events. For example, by car, bus or taxi.



Travelling by car created the biggest number of carbon emissions.



Some arts organisations are trying to get their audiences to travel in ways that are better for the environment, such as by bus or train.



Other arts organisations are trying to run more shows and events online so people don't have to travel.

# Water



410 of the 591 NPOs gave us information about how much water they used.



This included water that is used to flush toilets.



Out of the 4 ways their work impacted the environment, water had the smallest impact.



In total, arts organisations used 1.6 billion litres of water.

# The survey

## Julie's Bicycle

CREATIVE • CLIMATE • ACTION

Arts organisations could also answer a survey that was made by **Julie's Bicycle**.



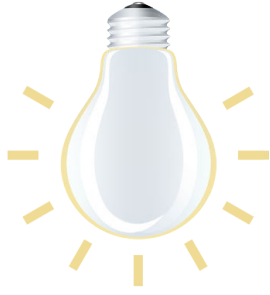
This survey asked them about the work they do to help stop climate change and look after the environment.



The survey had lots of sentences for organisations to read and then answer yes or no.



The next few pages give you some examples of what arts organisations said yes to.



## Most organisations said they

- are trying to use less energy by using different lightbulbs or appliances that turn themselves off.
- look for artists who do good work for the environment when thinking about who to work with.
- have made art about the environment in the last year.
- have an **environmental policy**.
- talk about their environmental policy when they apply for money to help them make art.
- **recycle** the materials they use in their events.

An **environmental policy** has rules about how people can help look after the environment at work.

**Recycle** is when something is put in a special bin so it can be used again or made into something else.

## Some organisations said they



- have a pot of money saved for plans or **campaigns** to help the environment.



- get renewable energy from **green energy tariffs**.



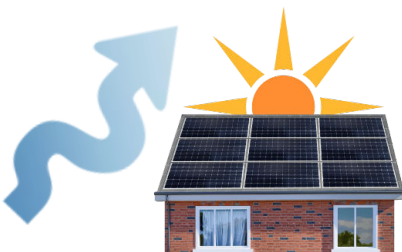
- think more people have come to see their art because they started running activities to do with the environment.



- offer food in their menus that is vegetarian or grows at the time of year it is eaten.



A **campaign** is when you tell people about something by using things like social media, posters or adverts.



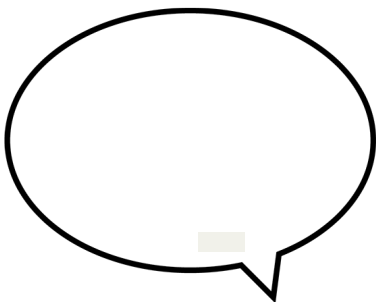
**Green energy tariffs** are when energy companies buy more renewable energy every time you get your energy from them.



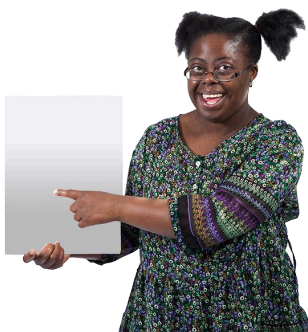
# More about the survey



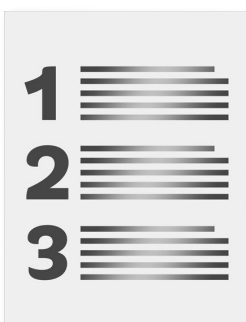
In the survey, arts organisations could also tell more information about what they are doing to help stop climate change and look after the environment.



This gave them a chance to really talk about their work and not just answer our questions.



The next few pages tell you what our arts organisations have been doing in the last year.



These are only a few examples.



# What arts organisations are doing



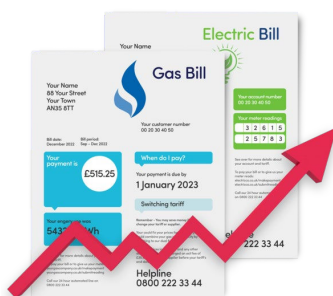
**Open Sky Theatre** are trying to make less waste by reusing, recycling or borrowing all the materials they need.



**Charnwood Arts** are also trying to make less waste by getting most of their materials from charity shops.



**Battersea Arts Centre** are planning to have a **Building Management System**.



A **Building Management System** is a machine that keeps track of how much energy your building uses.



**Disability Arts Online** want to make their **digital footprint** smaller.



A **digital footprint** means the impact of how much information a person or an organisation has put on the internet. This information uses a lot of energy to save and store.



**New Earth Theatre** are letting their staff work from home so less people have to travel into the office.



**The National Centre for Writing** take part in the **Bike to Work Scheme** and share car rides between the people who work there.



The **Bike to Work Scheme** helps more people cycle to work. It is when your organisation buys you a bike and they take some money from your salary each month to pay for it.



**Suffolk Libraries** are running activities about the environment.



**Talking Birds Theatre Company** planted wildflowers to help the wildlife in their local area.



**Future Arts Centre** helped over 40 arts centres to talk to each other and share different ways they can help the environment.



**DanceSyndrome** are working with other arts organisations to think about how they can help the environment.



**Oxford Contemporary Music** are getting people to talk about the environment by running an outdoor show, using recycled materials.



**Liverpool Arab Arts Festival** have worked with lots of artists that talk about climate change.



**The Poetry Translation Centre** use a **green rider** for their artists.



A **green rider** is a list of things an artist can ask an organisation to do so they can work with them and help the environment at the same time.



For example, an artist might ask for money for them and their team to travel by train instead of driving.



**Milap Festival Trust** have moved to a new office in Liverpool and are working with their **landlord** to make new rules about recycling.



A **landlord** is someone who owns a building.



**Actors Touring Company** have a **Climate Board Champion** who has shared their work and ideas of how to help the environment at **climate conferences**.



A **Climate Board Champion** is in charge of how your organisation makes decisions that are good for the environment.



A **climate conference** is when lots of people come together to talk about climate change and how to help the environment in their work.



**Kiln Theatre** taught a few of the people who work for them about **carbon literacy**.

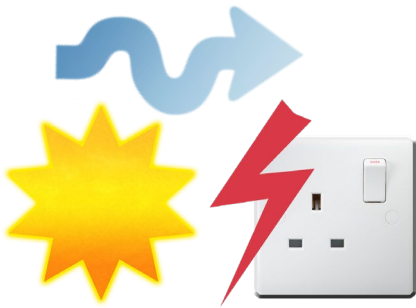


**Carbon literacy** is when you understand how your everyday activities impact the environment by creating carbon emissions.

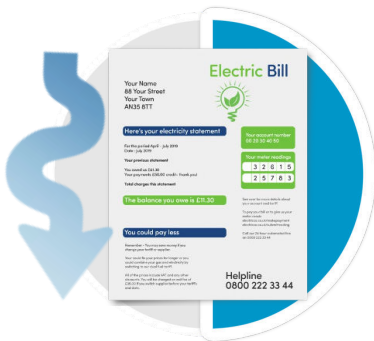




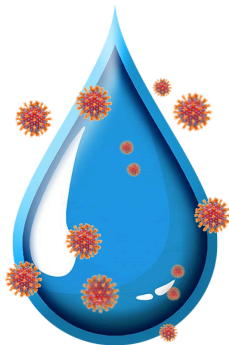
**Creative Folkestone** got **solar panels** to help them use less energy at their events space called Quarterhouse.



**Solar panels** are put on the roof of a building. They turn sunlight into electricity.



After 1 month of having solar panels their electricity bill was almost half the price.



**Level Centre Ltd** told people about **water pollution** and the tiny bacteria called microbes that keep our waters healthy.



**Water pollution** is when harmful chemicals and carbon emissions get into lakes, rivers and oceans.



We are very proud of the work our NPOs did to help look after the environment from 2023 to 2024.



We are excited to tell you about the work they do from 2024 to 2025.

# Thank you for reading our booklet

Thank you to A2i for the words  
**[www.a2i.co.uk](http://www.a2i.co.uk)** (reference 40703a)

The full version of this document is called  
**Culture, Climate and Environmental Responsibility:  
Annual Report 2023-24**